ICDS Scheme of Ministry of Human Resource Development and Special Nutrition Programme, Balwadi Nutrition Programme, and Mid-Day Meal Programme run by the State Governments. Expectant mothers are also provided with nutrition supplement programmes.

Reconstitution of board of ITI

525. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Telephone Industry (ITI) has been without a Chairman and Managing Director for a long time and that the reconstitution of the Indian Telephone Industry Board has been delayed for over a year now;

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof stating the impact on the working of the ITI as a result thereof; and

(c) steps taken by the Government to appoint a Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Telephone Industry and to reconstitute its Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The former Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) was due to retire in March, 1987. However, he was appointed as Secretary to the Government w.e.f. 1.1.1987 before arrangements could be made for selection of a substitute.

Separately, a proposal to reorganise the ITI top management was under consideration and the actual selection for the substitute was kept in abeyance temporarily pending finalisation of the decision.

Suitable arrangements have, however, been made to look after the work of the Chairman as well as the Managing Director. There have been no adverse impact on the work of the ITI because of this slight delay in the appointment of a regular Chairman and Managing Director.

(c) The Public Enterprises Selection Board is in the process of finalising the selection for the post of Chairman and Managing Director, ITI. Separately, action has been taken to reconstitute the ITI Board with a number of functional as well as non-official Directors.

Tourism Finance Corporation

526. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:
SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Tourism Finance Corporation to provide financial assistance to the tourism industry in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) With a view to accelerating the development of tourism infrastructure which is one of the major factors inhibiting the growth of tourism in the country, various measures are continuously under consideration in the Ministry. One of these measures relates to the setting of Tourism Finance Corporation.

Harmful effects of Phenylbutazone Oxyphenbutazone

527. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports appearing in a sec-

tion of the Press that the harmful pain-killer drugs Phenylbutazone and Oxyphenbutazone increase susceptibility to infection blood cancer and other serious diseases, resulting in death of about 10,000 people till 1983 and that they have already been banned in most European countries, Malaysia and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether India also proposed to ban their use; and

(c) whether it is a fact that instead they have recently been decontrolled resulting in a likely boost in their use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Reports have appeared in the press highlighting the possibility of a serious side effect of anti-inflammatory and anti-arthritic drugs like Phenylbutazone/Oxyphenbutazone causing lowering of white blood cells in the blood and thus making patients vulnerable to infections. While the drug Phenylbutazone has been withdrawn in countries like Norway, United Arab Emirates and Jordan, it is continued to be marketed in many countries including India. Similarly, while the drug Oxyphenbutazone has been withdrawn in countries like Norway, Israel, U.K., United Arab Emirates, Finland, Zimbabwe and Jordan it is continued to be marketed in many other countries including India.

(b) Government, in consultation with expert bodies, have restricted the use of Phenylbutazone/Oxyphenbutazone only in ankylosing spondylitis and gouty arthritis for which Phenylbutazone/Oxyphenbutazone are considered the drugs of choice by the experts. These drugs, however, are not to be administered for more than 7 days.

(c) Decontrol category of a drug is in relation to price control and not in relation to consumption and these drugs are prescription drugs and to be dispensed only against prescription.

Indo-USSR Agreement for higher studies and Research

528. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has recently signed an agreement with U.S.S.R. to send students and scholars to Soviet Union for higher studies and research work; and

(b) if so, the criteria for selecting the candiades?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The Programme of cultural, scientific and educational exchanges between the Republic of India and the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic for the period from January 1, 1987 to December 31, 1988, which was signed on 18-9-1987 *inter-alia* provides that Indian students and scholars will be sent to the Soviet Union for higher studies and research work.

(b) The criteria for selection of the candidates in respect of scholarships provided for in the Indo-USSR Cultural Exchange Programme is detailed in the Statement.

Statement

For Doctoral Studies :—

Uniformly good academic record with at least 60 per cent marks at Master's Degree level or equivalent qualification in the subject selected or in allied field. At least two consecutive years' teaching/research/practical experience is essential in the subject fields selected after passing the prescribed qualification. The successful completion of of M.Phil./Pre-Ph.D. course will